

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the Official Action mailed on November 18, 2003.

The Official Action rejected claims 2, 3, 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Official Action provisionally objected to claim 10 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 on the grounds of double patenting in view of claim 2. The Official Action rejected claims 1, 11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on "applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Pye, Injection Moulding Design, Kent, Great Britain, George Goodwin Publishers 1978, pp. 236 and 237, TP1150P91978 ("Injection Molding Design"). The Official Action rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on "applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Injection Moulding Design and German OLS 3932248A1 dated 4/5/1990 (Germany 3932248). The Official Action stated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The Official Action stated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 1, 4-12, 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3 and 13 are presently pending.

The Section 112 Rejections

Claims 2, 3, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. The words --away from-- have been added after "facing" in claim 2 at line 11 and in

claim 13 at line 13. Although the base of the groove faces towards the communicating hole, the opening of the groove does face away from the communicating hole. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is accordingly overcome as to claims 2 and 13, and as to claim 3 which depends from claim 2. As to claim 10, this rejection is moot as that claim has been cancelled without prejudice.

Indication of Allowability

The conclusion of the Official Action stated that claim 13 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 was overcome, and that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if such rejection was overcome and such claims were amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate claim 1. Claims 2, 3 and 13 accordingly are in order for allowance.

Double Patenting

Claim 10 was provisionally objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 in view of claim 2. Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice. This rejection accordingly is moot.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on "applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Injection Moulding Design. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on "applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Injection Moulding Design and Germany 3932248. Claims 1, 4, 11, 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as moot in view of the foregoing amendments in the

claims. Applicant does not acquiesce in and makes no admission with regard the asserted relevance of such references as stated in the Official Action.

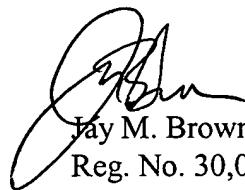
Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejections and prompt allowance are requested. The Examiner is respectfully invited and requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite resolution of any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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